

**From:** Will Ganz  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Attorney General John Ashcroft,

The proposed deal with Microsoft is too weak. Witness the continued integration of such services as instant messaging, on demand multimedia, and e-commerce(Passport), into the new release Windows XP. The flaccid excuse of using the horrific events of 11 September as a reason for rushing to a settlement is almost a sacrilege to the memories of the EMS personnel that died there. To rush to a conclusion of this since "the economy is bad" is as equally wrong or amoral as overlooking Bill Clinton's felonies since "the economy is good".

The true irony of the whole situation is that Microsoft could have gotten to their position of dominance by sheer engineering excellence without having to resort to such deeds as copying others code without license(DOS ver 1 and Stack), vaporware( Visual Basic 4.0 & 5.0 for the Macintosh), planting fake error messages in their software(DR-DOS & Windows 3.0/3.1), threatening to withhold licenses if hardware vendors even offered another OS( OS/2 & Linux), threatening to withhold licenses if hardware vendors don't pay for a copy of Windows even if the machine ships with a competing OS(multiple small shops with Linux, UNIX, & OS/2), changing the boot sectors for operating systems so that competing OS's cannot be multibooted(Windows 2000 with BeOS, Linux, and the various types of BSD), trying to divide up the market space with competitors(knife the baby with Apple&QuickTime; or Internet Explorer for Windows and Netscape for everything else) and violating contractual agreements to twist other's software into Windows specific trap( Sun & Java).

Read Bill Gates own testimony before Congress when he stated that the cost of software goes down even with the amount of complexity goes up. Now, look at the ever increasing cost of Windows. A license for Windows has gone from 2% of machine cost when Windows 3.1 was released to 30% today with Windows XP. This is directly from Bill Gate's mouth. You said that Timonthy McVeigh wouldn't get a retrial in spite of the monumental FBI SNAFU. Yet Bill Gates gets to rip, rape, and ruin the computer industry at his leisure now.

HOW MUCH EVIDENCE DO YOU NEED???? You have a lot less evidence against bin Laden and the US is bombing Afghanistan, yet you hand out essentially a warning ticket for jaywalking to multibillion dollar/year company that doesn't even bother pay income taxes at all. That fact is directly from their annual report to their stockholders. None, Nyet, Nada, and don't intend on it either. As an RN that is busting his backside to pay his bills and support a bureaucratic royalty of eunchs in DC, that is a double insult to have to pay more income tax than Microsoft, Inc. does. And I am talking actual number of dollars, not percentages here. You know, the long folding green stuff with pictures of dead presidents on it that makes the world go

round? .

The only reason that we have had a rise in competing operating systems in the past is that Microsoft has HAD to be restrained during the trial lest their activities would be used against them in court. Now, you are going to undo the ONLY decent thing that the previous inhabitants of DC managed to do right. What happens to the economy when Microsoft now has a free hand to wreck vengeance as it sees fit and only has to answer to a bunch of paid patsies that meets annually?

The best visual analogy that I can give you is a mature pine forest. Mature pine trees have a monopoly on the environment. They poison the ground with their acidic needles so that no other plant can grow. Microsoft has a monopoly on operating systems, and poisons/absorbs any new idea into their OS or Office products. There isn't anything for wildlife to eat since everything except pine trees are dead to about 20 feet off the ground. No one wants to develop new products for the Windows environment since Microsoft will write the same functionality into their products. We will have the same technological diversity as there is ecological diversity at the ground floor of forest. The only OS diversity is the Macintosh with 5% the market share and Linux with 1%. Pine trees will grow to over 100 feet high and live for almost a century, only adding height and girth. Microsoft only produces superior products when they face competition. A mature/dying pine forest will only rejuvenate itself when it is cut/burn down. Pine seeds will only germinate after the wax coating is burnt off. Do your job and light a match to Microsoft's monopoly.

Specifically, this should be added to the restrictions on Microsoft:

- \* prohibitions on the integration of instant messaging, media playing, and currency exchange into the Windows operating system
- \* immediate release of all API's for prior versions of Windows
- \* require the development and release of a database program to complement the Macintosh version of Office in the same manner that the program Access is a relational database component for the Windows version of Office, this would increase the viability of the Macintosh platform of a competitor
- \* require the release of the previously announced Visual Basic for the Macintosh
  - to promote the development of vertical applications on that platform, this would compensate for the FUD that Microsoft used to freeze competing development languages on the Macintosh platform
- \* require the inclusion of the Java Virtual Machine from Sun in Windows XP
- \* prohibit the release of any new Windows operating system until the number of bugs is less than 10% of number of lines of code

Shame on you for selling us out. This stinks so badly that it has coined a new word "Seattlement".

Sincerely,

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NRA member when I was 16 in 1971 & Republican when I was 18 in 1973.